

Republican



Partnership
Michigan

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March 21, 2006

Representative Edward J. Gaffney
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing MI

Dear Rep. Gaffney and members of the House Health Policy Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Republican Main Street Partnership - Michigan to support Representative Meisner's bill which will permit embryonic stem cell research in Michigan.

As you may know, the Republican Main Street Partnership in Washington DC has as its number one legislative agenda for this session of Congress additional federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. The federal legislation has passed the House and Senator Frist (a supporter) believes he has the votes to put it through the Senate.

We agree with most doctors that embryonic stem cell research is the best hope for victims of Alzheimer's, MD, MS, Parkinson's and a number of other similar diseases. In addition, it appears to be the only hope for those with spinal cord injuries and a recent segment of CBS "60 Minutes" (airing two weeks ago) touted its importance in terms of dealing with heart disease and replacing damaged cells in the heart muscle.

Also, most important for the State of Michigan, this research will enhance our ability to attract companies and institutions that are spending significant research dollars. Further, it will help us retain those excellent research scientists which we already have working in this area at the University of Michigan.

We respectfully request your support of this bill which will give a boost to the Michigan economy and, more important, give hope to millions of sufferers of various diseases for which there is no known cure. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Eleveld
Vice-President